

PRESIDENT: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator Beutler, I would like to ask you a question if I could. Senator Beutler, is it your intention to require that every person working in the state auditor's office have a CPA license and have it active?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Newell, if you haven't read the bill any better than that you shouldn't be standing up and speaking about it.

SENATOR NEWELL: Well, I have read the bill and I ask you the question and if you don't want to answer, I'll answer it myself since your unwillingness is obvious. . . an intention to do one or two things, and I'll speak to those in a moment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: The only thing the bill does is require that the auditor and the deputy auditor be a CPA, Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Thank you very much Senator Beutler. That is exactly what the bill does. It is not the intention to require that we have CPAs who actually perform the audit functions in the counties, it is not the intention to upgrade the office in a measurable way by requiring a level of expertise above what is presently there. It is the intention of this bill to require only the auditor, which is an administrative function of government and primarily he is an administrator that will require him to be a CPA. The purpose is very simple so that he can be disciplined by the state board of public accountancy. I frankly think, again as I have said before, that is bad public policy. The people who ought to discipline executive branch people ought to be the public, it ought to be the voters and that is the way our system has worked for all of these many years and that is the way it ought to work continually. I urge you to allow 325 to sleep peacefully in its grave.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Labedz. The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? I do see five hands. The question is shall the debate cease. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. 25 votes are required. Have you all voted? The Clerk will record.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Motion carried, debate is ceased and I believe that Senator Fowler is ceding his closing time to Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, may I ask how many are excused?